

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4 ( previously canceled)

Claim 5 (currently amended)

A test kit comprising, as separate components, a first container containing radiolabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D<sub>3</sub>, a second container containing unlabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D<sub>3</sub> and instructions for the measurement of vitamin D binding proteins in urine as a marker for salt sensitivity in individuals, said instructions reciting methods for testing for salt sensitivity.

Claim 6 (currently amended)

A method of testing for salt sensitivity by determining specific 25-hydroxyvitamin D binding activity in a urine sample comprising the steps of:

- (1) preparing multiple identical samples of urine collected from an individual;
- (2) adding a known amount of radiolabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D<sub>3</sub> to all samples in step (1);
- (3) adding a known amount of excess unlabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D<sub>3</sub> to half of the samples prepared in step (2) to compete with radiolabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D<sub>3</sub> for binding proteins in the urine;
- (4) incubating all samples prepared in steps (2) and (3) to allow radiolabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D<sub>3</sub> binding to proteins in the urine;
- (5) incubating samples prepared in step (4) with buffered dextran-coated charcoal, then centrifuging to precipitate the unbound radiolabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D<sub>3</sub>;
- (6) measuring the radioactivity in each sample;
- (7) subtracting the average radioactivity in the samples containing excess unlabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D<sub>3</sub>, which had been added in step (3), from the average radioactivity of the samples to which no unlabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D<sub>3</sub> had been added to determine specific vitamin D binding activity in the urine with the amount of

binding in samples prepared in step (3) acting as a background for the amount of binding in the samples to which 25-hydroxyvitamin D<sub>3</sub> has not been added with a high radioactivity level in the samples to which no unlabeled 25-hydroxyviatamin D<sub>3</sub> has been added being considered indicative of salt sensitivity or predisposition to salt-associated sensitivity.

Claim 7 (Canceled)

Claim 8 (Canceled)

Claim 9 (previously presented)

The kit of claim 5 lacking antibodies to 25 hydroxyvitamin D.

Claim 10 (previously presented)

A method of calculating specific 25-hydroxyvitamin D binding activity in urine samples of an individual by subtracting binding in samples in the presence of both labeled and excess unlabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D from binding in samples containing only labeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D<sub>3</sub> but to which no unlabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D has been added to determine salt sensitivity.

Claim 11 (previously presented)

The kit of claim 1 containing, additionally, dextran coated charcoal.